

**National Library of Medicine
Round Robin Report
ALA Midwinter Meeting
January 2006**

Subject Analysis

After consultation with medical librarians in the field, NLM determined that subject strings still appeared to be necessary for many libraries, so NLM will continue to distribute its MARC 21 records with geographic and form subheadings attached to the main subjects. However, age groups and pregnancy terms will follow standard MeSH practice and are now treated as primary headings, rather than topical subheadings. With the implementation of the 2006 MeSH, NLM also discontinued use of the local 659 field, and changed the indicators in the 655 fields to reflect current MARC practice. Because of the 655 reformatting, our 2005 Year-End processing touched over 360K records, or about 30% of the bib database. For full details of all subject changes see:

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/so05/so05_marc.html

NLM Classification

NLM began development of a XML version of its classification scheme. It is hoped that having an XML version will allow for development of an automated means of determining possible classification numbers, based on the subject headings present in the bibliographic record.

New feature added to NLM Catalog

An authority index was added to the NLM Catalog (NLM's Entrez-based access to bibliographic records), allowing users to find the correct authorized forms of names and titles used in the database.

Voyager

NLM plans to upgrade to Voyager 2003.1.1 (Unicode) the weekend of January 13-16. As part of the upgrade, we will implement changes to the layout, buttons and instructions in LocatorPlus (NLM's OPAC), to improve usability. Following the upgrade, NLM will then serve as a testing partner for the Voyager Release 6.

Validator software, originally developed by Gary Strawn, and adapted by LC, was successfully implemented with local changes needed at NLM, to supplement the inadequate automatic validation provided in Voyager. Validator allows the catalogers and technicians to catch simple, common coding errors in records before they are released to the public, and will be a big help in quality control of our bibliographic and authority records.

ERMS and Electronic Journals

NLM selected and purchased Endeavor's Meridian ERMS software. A server is in place and Meridian will be installed on February 22. Project planning began in the summer of 2005 and an implementation team has been meeting regularly since early fall. The team is reviewing current workflows for electronic resources and identifying possible data sources for migrating existing data into Meridian. NLM has several goals for using the

ERMS. The primary goal is to manage data for NLM licenses and for licenses negotiated cooperatively with the NIH Library. NLM would also eventually like to link Meridian to other NLM systems to support indexing for MEDLINE and interlibrary loan operations using DOCLINE.

NLM has started a project to identify and code journals that have ceased print publication and gone to an online-only format. The project is intended to be an ongoing study of the trend toward online-only publication. It will examine the potential impact on technical services operations, the serials budget, NLM's preservation mission and NLM's role as the library of last resort for interlibrary loan. Data will be compiled on the number of titles ceasing print publication over time as well as price information for the print and online versions and whether the online versions are open access or require a license.

Collection Development

NLM Selection staff have undertaken several steps to strengthen the collection of works relevant to Native Hawaiian health and healing, including review of bibliographic databases (such as the *Native Hawaiian Health Database* <http://nhhd.andornot.com/> , OCLC, et al) ; print bibliographies (such as the *Pa'i'ana Na'auao*, a health reference list produced by Papa Ola Lokahi); the publications of the Bishop Museum, <http://www.bishopmuseum.org/> and a wide variety of Web resources, to identify published works to be acquired for the NLM collection. The Library is also reviewing and acquiring doctoral theses which contain original documentation of Native Hawaiian health and healing practices, policies, history, public health initiatives, and research.

The New York Academy of Medicine concluded its agreement with NLM to provide bibliographic records for fugitive literature in health technology assessment in June 2005, with that organization having contributed a total of 1,219 titles since the project began in 2002.

The “Z” Classification Review Project, a joint History of Medicine, Public Services and Technical Services collaboration, created detailed guidelines for retention and withdrawal of materials in the Z classification. To date, the guidelines have been used to identify over 1400 titles for withdrawal. The Z classification includes a wide range of works related to bibliography and library science, including works on the history, philosophy and practice of writing, printing, publishing, book collecting, library and information science, and databases; and general, descriptive, critical, analytical, national, subject, and personal bibliographies. While many works in this call number range are critical for research and should be retained, others fell far outside of the Library’s collecting scope or research interests and were candidates for withdrawal.

Personnel

The NLM Cataloging Section underwent a reorganization, creating four units consisting of both librarians and technicians (the existing Systems Unit remained unchanged). Prior to this, technicians had been in one unit and librarians in their own units. Retirements and promotions had left three unit head vacancies in the Section, making it an ideal time for change. It is hoped that this structure will provide for a more efficient workflow, with fewer handoffs of items during the cataloging process.

Barbara Bushman was hired as a new Cataloging unit head in October. Ms. Bushman previously worked at the UCLA Library Cataloging & Metadata Center. Chong Chung and Paul Deanna, long time members of the NLM Cataloging Section, were promoted to unit head positions at the same time. Evelyn Bain, former unit head, retired on December. 30, 2005 after 31 years of working at NLM.

The Cataloging Section is hoping to fill three cataloger vacancies, having completed interviewing candidates. The Selection and Acquisitions Section is in the interview phase for a selector of electronic resources and the Serial Records Section is interviewing for two serials acquisitions librarian vacancies. Unfortunately, the Library is caught in the Department of Health and Human Services hiring freeze, so the ability to complete the recruitments is uncertain.

Twenty-two percent (18 out of 80) of Technical Services Division staff regularly telework from home one to three days per week. While the majority of the teleworkers are catalogers, we also have systems librarians, acquisitions librarians and library technicians who participate in the program.